

Commemoration for the Lives of the Braidwood and District ANZACS

"We will remember them well"

A CALL FROM THE DARDANELLES



ROLL OF HONOUR

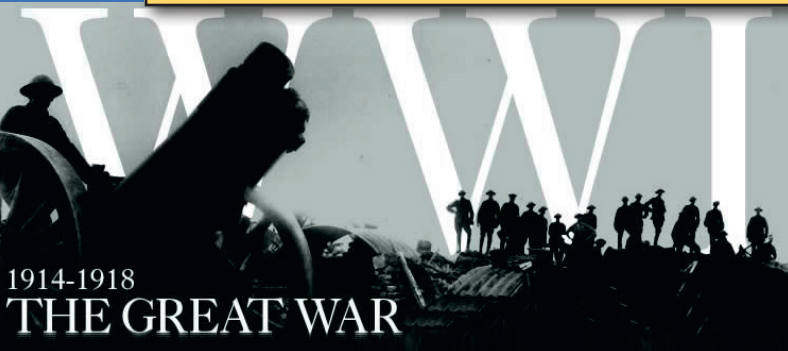
GEELAN, Robert Michael

Service Number: 2644

Rank: Private

*"Coo-ee-
Wont YOU
come?"*

From 1914 - 1918, 465 volunteers from Braidwood and the District
joined the Australian Imperial Force in World War I.
88 lost their lives, never to return home. This is their story.



1914-1918
THE GREAT WAR

100
YEARS OF
ANZAC

THE SPIRIT
LIVES
2014 - 2018

Introduction

This year, 2015, marks the centenary of the start of the Gallipoli campaign and Australia's involvement as a nation in the greatest and most terrible conflict ever seen to that time. Australians joined their Armed Forces in large numbers. Their motives were as varied as their upbringings, from a need to save the Empire, of which Australia was an integral part, to the desire to have a great adventure.

Braidwood and district were no exception. Over the four years from 1914 to 1918, from a population of about 5000, 465 men and women from what is now the 2622 postcode area – including Braidwood, Majors Creek, Araluen, Mongarlowe, Nerriga, Ballalaba and Jembaicumbene joined the Navy or Army. Of these 377 returned to Australia. Sadly, 88 lost their lives.

A varying amount of their history is recorded in the Australian War Memorial. Some of their names, but not all, are recorded on local memorials. More is recorded in limited local histories and newspapers, not readily available to the general public; and the people who lived with and knew these distant relatives are also passing on.

The Braidwood RSL Sub Branch has collected all the information available from the Australian War Memorial and local sources, including the Braidwood Museum. Families, still resident in the district, have added their family knowledge and their precious memorabilia.

This booklet is the available story of **Robert Michael Geelan**, one of the 88 Braidwood volunteers who did not return from World War I. It contains his details as recorded in the World War I Roll of Honour, his Enlistment Papers, Field Service records, any Casualty notification, correspondence relating to his death, details of decorations won, any available photos, and, in some instances, family correspondence or recollections.

Robert Michael Geelan died for his country, for you and for me. Please pause a moment to remember him.

Lest We Forget.

WORLD WAR I

World War I lasted four years, from 4 August 1914 until 11 November 1918. It began after the assassination of the heir to the Austrian throne. The axis powers were Germany and Austria. Russia and France were the initial allies. When Germany invaded Belgium, Britain entered the war on the side of Russia and France.

The war was in Europe, the Western Front was in France and Belgium. The Eastern Front was Russia and Austria-Hungary. Africa was another front because of colonial possessions on that continent, and after Turkey entered the war on 1 November 1914, the Middle East became another theatre of war.

Australians generally thought of themselves as an integral part of the British Empire and the Australian Army and Navy were part of the Imperial Forces. In 1914, Australia's Prime Minister, Andrew Fisher, immediately promised Australian support for Britain 'to the last man and the last shilling.' The Australian population was less than five million. 324,000 Australians served overseas. 61,720 lost their lives. 155,000 were wounded. 4,044 became prisoners of war (397 died while captive).

The first Australian troops were sent to Egypt in 1915. The ANZACS – Australian and New Zealand Army Corps – were engaged in battle on the Gallipoli Peninsula against the Turks to control the Dardanelles' and open the way to Eastern Europe with their fateful landing on 25 April 1915.

The ANZACS were evacuated on 19-20 December 1915. The Gallipoli campaign resulted in the deaths of 7,600 Australians and the wounding of 19,000. Despite the defeat, the legend attached to the heroism, comradeship and valour of the soldiers remain a source of Australian pride and national identity.



ROLL OF HONOUR

ROBERT MICHAEL GEELAN

Service Number: 2644

Rank: Private

Unit: 18th Australian Infantry Battalion

Service: Australian Army

Conflict: First World War, 1914-1918

Date of death: 20 September 1917

Place of death: Belgium

Cause of death: Killed in action

Age at death: 32

Place of association: Sydney, Australia

Cemetery or memorial details: Menin Gate Memorial,
Ypres, Flanders, Belgium

Source: AWM145 Roll of Honour cards, 1914-1918 War,
Army

Location on the Roll of Honour: Robert Michael Geelan's
name is located at **panel 85** in the Commemorative Area
at the Australian War Memorial

A Father and his two Sons fighting for their Country



Frank Robert Geelan Snr #5100

Robert's Father, Frank, a labourer, aged 44, enlisted on 4 September 1915. His theatre of war service was in Egypt and France. He returned to Australia in 1919, and was discharged as medically unfit.

Francis (Frank Jnr) John Geelan #382

Robert's Brother, Frank Jnr, a plasterer, aged 21, enlisted on 4 April, 1915. His theatre of war service was in Egypt and Sudan. He returned to Australia in 1916

Robert Michael Geelan #2644

Robert, a drover, aged 30, enlisted on 31 July, 1915. His theatre of war service was in Egypt and France. He was killed in action on 20 September, 1917 in France at the battle of Menin Road.

Published in *The Braidwood Dispatch*:

"...Robert Geelan was also killed on active service in France. Bob was well and favourably known, his old school mates will be particularly sorry to hear of the sad end of one who was an ever true and faithful friend. He was born in Araluen, received his primary education at the Public School Braidwood, later at the Superior Public School Leichardt, later working in the Lands Titles Branch, Registrar-General's Department.

He was subsequently employed in the Commonwealth Taxation Department, where his geniality, sterling qualities and conduct were further recognised."

Braidwood Postcards From the Front, by Roslyn Maddrell

18th Australian Infantry Battalion

The 18th Battalion was raised at Liverpool in New South Wales in March 1915 as part of the 5th Brigade. It left Australia in early May, trained in Egypt from mid-June until

mid-August, and on 22 August landed at ANZAC Cove.

The battalion had not been ashore a day when it was committed to the last operation of the August Offensive ' the attack on Hill 60 ' which lasted until 29 August and cost it 50 per cent casualties. For the rest of the campaign the 18th played a purely defensive role, being primarily responsible for holding Courtney's Post. The last members of the battalion left Gallipoli on 20 December.

After further training in Egypt, the 18th Battalion proceeded to France. Landing there on 25 March 1916, it took part in its first major battle at Pozieres between 25 July and 5 August. The battalion returned to the Pozieres trenches for a second time in late August. After a spell in a quieter sector of the front in Belgium, the 2nd Division including the 5th Brigade, came south again in October. The 18th Battalion was spared from having to mount an attack across the quagmire that the Somme battlefield had become, but did have to continue manning the front through a very bleak winter.

In 1917 the 18th was involved in the follow-up of German forces during their retreat to the Hindenburg Line, and was involved in some particularly heavy fighting around Warlencourt in late February. The battalion took part in three major battles before the year was out: the second Bullecourt (3-4 May) in France; and *Menin Road (20-22 September)* and Poelcappelle (9-10 October) in Belgium.

After another winter of trench duty, the spring of 1918 brought a major German offensive that the 18th Battalion helped to

repel. With this last desperate offensive turned back, the Allied armies turned to the offensive and the 18th participated in the battles that pushed the German Army ever closer to defeat: Amiens on 8 August, the legendary attack on Mont St Quentin on 31 August, and the forcing of the Beaulieu Line around Montbrehain on 3 October. For his actions at Montbrehain, Lieutenant Joseph Maxwell was awarded the Victoria Cross. Montbrehain was the battalion's last battle; it was training out of the line when the armistice was declared and was disbanded on 11 April 1919.



The Braidwood Public School Roll of Honour, 1914-18 listing former students who volunteered in World War I. On the right hand board are the names of Frank Geelan Snr, Frank Geelan Jnr and Robert Geelan; all former students. This board is on display for visitors, at Braidwood Central School, Wilson Street, Braidwood.



Certified Copy
Allen H. Smith, Secy

AUSTRALIAN



MILITARY FORCES.

A 4 WMD

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

6th Rein 18 Batn

Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

No. 2644

Name GEELAN R.M.

Unit 6th Rein 18th Batn

Joined on 31. 7. 15

Frederick

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. What is your Name? | 1. <u>Geelan Robert Michael</u> |
| 2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born? ... | 2. In the Parish of <u>Arableen</u> in or near the Town of <u>New S. Wales</u> in the County of <u>Arast.</u> |
| 3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.) | 3. <u>Yes</u> |
| 4. What is your age? | 4. <u>30 yrs. 9 mths</u> |
| 5. What is your trade or calling? | 5. <u>Driver</u> |
| 6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period? | 6. <u>No</u> |
| 7. Are you married? | 7. <u>Single</u> <u>Father F. R. Geelan</u> |
| 8. Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated) .. | 8. <u>(Father) Frank Geelan</u> <u>38. 7. 7. 15. 1/4. d.</u>
<u>11. 1/2. 1/2. St. Leichhardt. N. S. W.</u> |
| 9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power? .. | 9. <u>No</u> |
| 10. Have you ever been discharged from any part of His Majesty's Forces, with Ignominy, or as Incurable and Worthless, or on account of Conviction of Felony, or of a Sentence of Penal Servitude, or have you been dismissed with Disgrace from the Navy? | 10. <u>No</u> |
| 11. Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in, His Majesty's Army, the Marines, the Militia, the Militia Reserve, the Territorial Force, Royal Navy, or Colonial Forces? If so, state which, and if not now serving, state cause of discharge | 11. <u>No</u> |
| 12. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service? | 12. <u>Yes</u> |
| 13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds? | 13. <u>No</u> |
| 14. Do you understand that no Separation Allowance will be issued in respect of your service beyond an amount which together with Pay would reach eight shillings per day. | 14. <u>Yes</u> |
| 15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against smallpox and enteric fever? | 15. <u>Yes</u> |

I, Robert Michael Geelan do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and I am willing and hereby voluntarily agree to serve in the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth.

* And I further agree to allot not less than two-fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my wife three-fifths wife and children

Date 4. 8. 15

R. M. Geelan
Signature of person enlisted.

B 103 France 28. 6. 17.
L P 4551

1000

Statement of Service of No. 2600 Name Geelan Robert Michael

Unit in which served.	Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, &c.	Period of service in each rank.		Remarks.
		From—	To—	
6th. Rein., 18th. Bn.	ADMITTED HOSPITAL Aux	8.2.16		17 21521 23.2.16
	Disch to duty	19.2.16		" 1699 9.3.16
	REJOINED UNIT FROM Details, Samaria	7.3.16		" 24 2029. 11.4.16
	Embark on H.S. Dieppe from Calais for England - grey scalp.	30.7.16		P1156 3972. 10.8.16
	Wounded in Action France	27.7.16		P1158 14278. 21.8.16
	Admitted 1st Northern General Hospital. New castle on Tyne - G.I.W. leg amput.	31.7.16		12.142/1271. 28.9.16
18th Bn.	Proceeded overseas to France per Princess Henrietta from Folkestone	13.12.16	2669	PY. 11 65/3280E 20.12.16
	2nd Lt. to 5th Bn (2nd 2667)	5 Aug 17	12.4.17	20 30/0920 E 21/3/17
	2nd Lt. to 4th Bn (2nd 2667)	"	1.6.17	P11 44/4770E 2/4/17
	Adj. Pte of 5th Bn France ex Rallstone O.C. 5th Inf Bn	Southpton	25.6.17	L P 4551 B 213 D.O. 48/5283E 30.6.17
	Adj. Pte. Reports to Pte at 2nd 23 Bn.	France	14.4.17	2059/5467 31.7.17
	Pte. Reported unit from details	"	18.7.17	2059/5215 26.7.17
	EDP lpl Reports to Pte at 2nd 23 Bn.	France	26.6.17	2065/5090 12.9.17
18th Bn	Pte. lpl. EDP lpl at 2nd 23 Bn	"	29.6.17	2065/5092 12.9.17
15th Bn	KILLED IN ACTION.	France	20.9.17	21134 1909 P11 74620857
Entitled to 1914/15 Star				
SEE COPY A.F. B 103 ENCLOSED.				

I have examined the above details and find them correct in every respect.

Transferred to

W 38807

D 38520

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

No. 2644

Rank *W* Name *Spella R. M.*

Unit *18th Battalion*

Casualty *Throat trouble, admitted 8/2/16 3rd Aux Hosp Cairo*
CEA 58/5150 12/1/16

Throat trouble. Admitted 5-2-16 3rd Aux Hosp Cairo

19/2/16 Discharged/CEA 58/5150 12/1/16

Wounded 6/1/16 272/6781 - St. Leonard 12.1.16

Wich. ex hosp. to Durlough. 12-27-10-16. 13 36/7. St. Lon. 19-10-16

19/1/16 Discharged from 1st Northern Gen. Hosp. to Duty 13 68/4 15/1/16

2.3.16 Report from Staff, Peninsula Daily O.P. 24/3 10th France 11.4.16

DATE.	PURPORT.	REF. No.
16/2/16	<i>Nofk adv in Hosp Cairo sick</i>	
19.2.16	<i>N. O. K. Advised Wounded</i>	
15/6	<i>2090^a should 520917</i>	
30/17 17	<i>M.O. 2 ADVISED, KILLED IN ACTION. 30/9/7</i>	
25.11.17	<i>COPY MADE FOR V. EXTENSIONS</i>	
31.12.17	<i>"Will" to D.P.M. 2 M.D. M23/1040</i>	
24.1.18	<i>PERSONAL EFFECTS EX. Personal</i>	
1.5.18	<i>PERSONAL EFFECTS EX. Personal</i>	
14.11.18	<i>M.O. 2 Advised Died 20/9/7</i>	
31.5.18	<i>Perions: advised R.D. etc. Vide Statement No. 145</i>	
5.9.18	<i>PERSONAL EFFECTS EX. Belgii</i>	
22/10/20	<i>1914/1915 Star Issued B.R.M. 48/12207. 18/16 2.18 17891 2nd</i>	
	<i>To Comdt. M.D. B.R.M. 517/2582</i>	

WAR HISTORY INDEX



Casualty Form - Active Service.

Regimental Number 2644.

Private. **Private** Rank
 Lance-Corporal **Private** Surname **GEELAN**
 Regiment or Corps **6/18th Battalion, I.I.F.**
 Religion **Christian** Christian Name **Robert Michael**
 Enlisted (a) **1916** Terms of Service (a) **10** years **10** months
 Date of promotion to present rank **1916** Service reckons from (a) **1916**
 Date of appointment to lance rank **1916**
 Extended Re-engaged Qualification (b) **1916**
 Occupation **1916** or Corps Trade and rate **1916**

Date	Report	From whom received	Place of Casualty	Date of Casualty	Remarks
			Embarked		
			Disembarked		
8/2/16	No. 5 Aux Hospital	A.I.F.			
20/2/16	"	"			
			Admitted Throat Trouble		
			Discharged to duty.		
			HELIPOLIS	19/2/16	DO 19/1521. W3034 (R 2826)
			"	19/2/16	W3034 (R 2826) DO 22/1699.
11/3/16	C.O., 18th Bn.				
			Reported from Details.		
			Proceeded to join B.I.F.		
			MOACAR	7/3/16	DO 24/2029 } B213 T14
			ALEXANDRIA	18/3/16	
29/7/16	"				
			Disembarked		
			Wounded in Action		
"	1st A.F.A.M.B.				
"	"		Admitted S.V. left leg.		
"	"		Transferred to 6th M.A.C.		
28/7/16	St. John's Hospital				
31/7/16	"		G.W.L. Leg severe: Adm:		
			G.W.L. Leg: Trans: to England:		
			STAPLES	28/7/16	W3034 AM 28/3.
			"	30/7/16	W3034 AM 28/3.

30.7.16. H.S. Drippa do. Subscribed in England Calais 30.7.16
 W 1024 4/12/16
 W 5197 2/12/16

Date	Report	From whom received	Place of Casualty	Date of Casualty	Remarks
31/7/16	1st M.O.H.	Newcastle-on-Tyne	ENGLAND	31/7/16	ER 2060 DO 42/1272E.
31/10/16	"	"	"	10/10/16	FR 419 IB 68.
12/10/16	No. 1 ComDep:	Perham Downs	"	26/10/16	ER 4842.
22/4/17	O.C.,	6th Ing. Bn.	ROLLESTON	12/4/17	ER 2062 B213 DO 53/E } 9/5/17
6/5/17	"	"	"	1/5/17	LR 2864 B213 DO 40/22/6/17
25/6/17	"	"	SOUTHAMPTON	25/6/17	B213 LR 4551 DO 48/E30/6/17
26/6/17	2nd A.F.B.D.	"	HAVRE	26/6/17	AX 4418
29/6/17	"	"	"	26/6/17	A.R. 1391/15 DO 65/6090
29/6/17	"	"	"	29/6/17	AK 1391/15 DO 65/6090
20/7/17	"	"	"	17/7/17	B213 B59/29 DO 59/5457.
21/7/17	C.O., 18th Bn.	"	FRANCE	16/7/17	B213 B7/29 DO 59/5415.
29/9/17	"	"	BELGIUM	20/9/17	B213 B7/29 DO 70/6808. V.L. 489.

AUSTRALIAN DICTION 3rd BCHRON C.H.C.,
 British Expeditionary Force.
 (SGT) S.T. BENNETT, Lieutenant.
 Officer I/c Records.

Beard

Butt

FIELD SERVICE.

Army Form B. 2090A.

REPORT of Death of a Soldier to be forwarded to the War Office with the least possible delay after receipt of notification of death on Army Form B. 213 or Army Form A. 36, or from other official documentary sources.

REGIMENT) 18th BATTALION A.I.F. Squadron, Troop, }
OR CORPS } Battery or Company }

Regimental No. 2644 Rank PRIVATE

Surname GELLAN Christian Names Robert Michael

Date 20th SEPTEMBER 1917. Place BELGIUM

Died Cause of Death* KILLED IN ACTION

Nature and Date of Report ARMY FORM B. 213 DATED 29th SEPTEMBER 1917

By whom made COMMANDING OFFICER 18th BATTALION A.I.F.

* Specially state if killed in action, or died from wounds received in action, or from illness due to field operations or to fatigue, privation or exposure while on military duty, or from injury while on military duty.

State whether he leaves (a) in Pay Book (Army Book 54) will not received (b) in Small Book (if at Base)
a. Will or not (c) as a separate document

All private documents and effects received from the front or hospital, as well as the Pay Book, should be examined, and if any will is found it should be at once forwarded to the War Office.

Any information received as to verbal expressions by a deceased soldier of his wishes as to the disposal of his estate should be reported to the War Office as soon as possible.

A duplicate of this Report is to be sent to the Fixed Centre Paymaster at Home, or to the D.F.A.G., Indian Expeditionary Force, or Field Disbursing Officer, as the case may require, together with the Deceased's Pay Book (after withdrawal of any will from the latter). If the deceased's Small Book is at the Base, it should be forwarded to the War Office with this Report.

Station and Date 30th MARCH 1918 Signature of Officer in charge of Section: *Yasthumb* Lieut. Adjutant-General's Office at the Base

W2088-M1768-500,000-H & Sr.-5/17-(19482)-Forms/152090A/2.

Officer i/c Records



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

E00906

September 1917, Belgium: Western Front (Belgium), Menin Road Area, Menin Road : Wounded men and prisoners acting as stretcher bearers on the Menin Road, in the Ypres sector. The soldiers on the extreme left and and right, foreground, are carrying their gas masks strapped to their chests.

NS

Amstrong
68911

1. Lyall Street
Leichhardt
Sydney.
25. 11. 17.

NS



Sir,

With regard to the cabled information of killed in action No 2644. Pte. R. M. Seelan, I am writing to ask if any further particulars are at hand regarding him. Also if it will be possible for his mother to obtain any of his personal belongings such as Rosary, prayer book pocket book or watch.

I am
Yours etc.
(Miss) M. Seelan.

The Officer in Charge of
Base Records
Victoria Barracks
Melbourne.

5971

WILL.

This is the last will and testament of me of Robert Michael Geelan of Leichhardt Sydney, Australia Soldier on Active Service with A.I.F. I revoke all former wills. I appoint my mother Mary Geelan of Lyall St. Leichhardt Sydney, New South Wales, Australia my sole executrix.

I give and bequeath all my real and personal estate to my mother for her sole and separate use.

Signed by the testator and accepted as his last will in the presence of us and the presence of each other.

Witnesses.
H.H.Hoskins.

R.M.Geelan.

Corp.E. Hollebon,

Dated on board Transport A.14 27 Nov 191

Certified to be a true copy of the Will extracted from Pay Book of No.2644 Pte. GEELAN, Robert Michael, 18th Battalion.

Checked *J.E. Hoskins*

[Signature]
Sgt.,
Estates Branch,
Adm.Hdqs.,
London.

D.J.
Australian Imperial Force.

KIT STORE.



110, GREYHOUND ROAD,
HAMMERSMITH, LONDON,
W. 6

TELEPHONES: HAMMERSMITH 1900, 1901.

Inventory of Effects of-

Forwarded to-

The Late No. 2644 Pte. Geelan R.M. 18th Batt. A.I.F.

LEGATEE,
Mother, Mary Geelan,
Lyall Street,
Leichhardt,
NEW SOUTH WALES.

Effects.

Ex /3rd Echelon, France (4781a) 12-11-17.

Wallet, Letters, Post Cards, Handkerchief.

No. of Package

D/S

23298

Checked by

ABC COMPANY

In Memory of
Private

Robert Michael Geelan

2644, 18th Bn., Australian Infantry, A.I.F. who died on 20 September 1917 Age 32

Son of Francis Robert and Mary Geelan, of Lyall St., Leichhardt, New South Wales. Native of Araluen, New South Wales.

Remembered with Honour
Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The Menin Gate Memorial (so named because the road led to the town of Menin) was constructed on the site of a gateway in the eastern walls of the old Flemish town of Ypres, Belgium, where hundreds of thousands of allied troops passed on their way to the front, the Ypres salient, the site from April 1915 to the end of the war of some of the fiercest fighting of the war.

The Memorial was conceived as a monument to the 350,000 men of the British Empire who fought in the campaign. Inside the arch, on tablets of Portland stone, are inscribed the names of 56,000 men, including 6,178 Australians, who served in the Ypres campaign and who have no known grave.

The opening of the Menin Gate Memorial on 24 July 1927 so moved the Australian artist Will Longstaff that he painted 'The Menin Gate at Midnight', which portrays a ghostly army of the dead marching past the Menin Gate. The painting now hangs in the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, at the entrance of which are two medieval stone lions presented to the Memorial by the City of Ypres in 1936.

Since the 1930s, with the brief interval of the German occupation in the Second World War, the City of Ypres has conducted a ceremony at the Memorial at dusk each evening to commemorate those who died in the Ypres campaign.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

ART09807

“Gate at Midnight” by Will Longstaff, (oil on canvas).

'Gate at midnight' was painted by Will Longstaff to commemorate those soldiers with no marked graves on the Western Front during the First World War; also known as 'Ghosts of Menin Gate'.

Longstaff attended a ceremony dedicating the Menin Gate memorial to the soldiers of the British Empire forces, just outside the town of Ypres, Belgium, on 24 July 1927. The memorial was dedicated to the 350,000 men of the British and Empire forces who had died in battles around Ypres, and bears the names of 55,000 men with no known grave, over 6,000 of whom were Australians. Longstaff was profoundly moved by what he witnessed and that night, unable to sleep, Longstaff returned to Menin Road and later claimed to have had a vision of spirits of the dead rising out of the soil around him. On returning to his studio in London he painted 'Menin Gate at midnight' in a single session. Today 'Menin Gate at midnight' has achieved the status of a national icon. The painting retains its ability to provoke an emotional response and to communicate the scale of the loss of life and the devastation of war. However as people now have a very different understanding of war, the painting serves

a slightly different function. Whereas in the past people responded to the painting as it related to the loss of a loved one and their own personal grief, now the painting communicates the loss experienced by a whole generation. The vast number of those who were killed, and the immensity of the damage wrought during the First World War, requires that those who sacrificed their lives should not be forgotten.

Longstaff used well-known motifs to trigger emotion. His scarlet poppies are flowers that could be found in the Flanders fields, but they also carry the traditional connotations of shed blood and remembrance; they represent a floral blanket covering the bloodied bodies of unknown soldiers; at the same time, like the paper poppies worn on Remembrance Day, they are a tribute from the living to the dead. The portrayal of the steel-helmeted soldiers rising from the cornfields extends the range of visual emblems used by Longstaff: the plentiful harvest; the harvest of men; the steel-helmeted crosses covering the graves of many soldiers; and the helmeted bayonets raised in cheer and victory.



Deua River, Araluen Road, Araluen early 1900s.

Acknowledgements

Everybody responded enthusiastically to the idea of capturing the information about Braidwood's 88 World War I veterans who lost their lives. The Braidwood RSL Sub Branch is most grateful for the support they received in carrying out this task and would like to acknowledge those of whom we are aware: Karen, Chris and Renee Nelson, Roslyn Maddrell, Karen Shea, Jill Clarke, Rod McClure, Ben and Meaghan Frohling, Diane McGrath, Us On Mondays Quilting Group, Len Mutton & Co and local shopkeepers for their World War I window displays.

Thank you to the students and teachers of Braidwood Central School and St. Bedes School who have embraced these soldiers and have honoured their memories on Anzac Day 2015.

The Braidwood RSL Sub Branch raised a good proportion of the funds for the cost of producing these booklets. The efforts of the members of the sub branch involved are very much appreciated. This money was augmented by welcome funding from the Federal Government through the ANZAC Centenary Local Grants Program and the Braidwood Community Bank.

To all those who helped in any way, many thanks. Your efforts have ensured we remember these Braidwood and District Veterans well.

Back Cover: Peace Day, 11th November 1918, Wallace Street, Braidwood.

“Wild day in Braidwood: When Braidwood woke up on Tuesday morning to find the ‘glad tidings of great joy’ awaiting it that Germany had signed the armistice and the frightful carnage of the past four years or so had come to an end it simply went mad with delight. No other words could adequately describe the excitement that followed.” “Braidwood Letters from the Front” by Roslyn Maddrell.

ROLL OF HONOUR

Alley, Clair Underwood
Archer, Fred
Backhouse, Victor John
Barnett, Frederick George
Barry, Charles Louis
Beatty, Walter Cusack
Bell, John Henry Edward
Black, George Scott
Bruce, Thomas Fraser
Byrne, Cecil John
Callan, William Henry
Catlin, Robert Henry
Clarke, Lester Thomas
Cook, Thomas John
Crandell, Christopher George
Cregan, Clarence Theodore Augustus
Cullen, Henry Thomas
Davis, John Henry
Davis, Oscar Raymond Stanley
Dawson, Edric Athol
Dayball, Arthur Joseph
Dempsey, Charles Frederick
Dempsey, Charles
Dowell, Frederick Robert
Feeney, William
Fisher, Osborne
Flack, John Foster
Garnett, Henry James
Geelan, Robert Michael
Gosling, Fred
Gough, James
Green, Francis Henry
Healy, Myrtle James
Howard, John Alexander
Huggett, William
Hunt, Frederick William
Hunt, John
Hush, Percy Alfred
Hush, Thomas
Hush, Austin Septimus
Innes, Henry George
Kelly, Herbert Albert
Kemp, Leslie Smith
Keyte, Robert
Knight, Charles Oliver
Lee, Thomas James
Lennon, James
Lupton, Spencer
Lynch, James Joseph
Matthews, Francis
McCool, Francis Leslie Neil
McDonald, Alexander Joseph
McLean, Donald
McRae, Finley Arnold
Meade, Arthur Stuart
Merton, Thomas David
Montgomery, Stanley
Moore, William
Newberry, Alwyn (Alwin) Horace James
O'Brien, Thomas Daniel
O'Reilly, John
Pooley, Edward
Rex, Horace Joseph
Riley, Frank
Roberts, Frederick Bede
Robinson, William James
Rodgers, Albert
Seidel, Alfred George
Seidel, Henry Edward
Sharpe, George Lyle
Sharpe, Reginald
Sherman, Edgar Robert
Sherman, Percy Frederick
Simmons, George
Smith (Greenwood), George
Spicer, William Henry
Steele, Alexander Norman
Stein, Daniel Godfrey
Stewart, David Walter
Styles, Reginald Lucian
Torpy, Patrick Edward
Torpy, Thomas Patrick
Walker, William Albert
Watt, James
Watt, Oscar Harold McClure
White, Alister
Whitelaw, Thomas Philip
Wilson, Samuel Charles

Lest We Forget